

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior revisions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of unloading elongated rails from a railcar traveling on track on a railway bed, said method comprising the steps of:

feeding a first rail on the railcar into a thread box having a power operated drive for transporting the rails through the thread box and onto the railway bed;

operating said drive of the thread box to transport said first rail through said thread box and onto the railway bed until said first rail is unloaded from the railcar onto the railway bed;

feeding a second rail on the railcar into said thread box, said second rail being disconnected from said first rail; and

operating said ~~drives~~ drive of the thread box to transport said second rail therethrough while propelling said railcar away from the first rail along the track at a speed sufficient to maintain said second rail substantially end to end with said first rail, thereby unloading said second rail from the railcar onto the railway bed with the first and second rails positioned on the railway bed substantially end to end and disconnected from one another.

2. (Currently amended) A method of unloading elongated rails from a railcar which travels on track on a railway bed, comprising the steps of:

feeding a first rail on the railcar into a first thread box having a power operated drive for transporting the rails through said first thread box and onto the railway bed;

feeding a second rail on the railcar into a second thread box located sidewardly from the first thread box and having a power operated drive for transporting the rails through said second thread box and onto the railway bed;

operating said drives of the first and second thread boxes to transport the respective first and second rails therethrough and onto the railway bed at locations spaced apart sidewardly until said first and second rails are unloaded from the railcar onto the railway bed;

feeding a third rail on the railcar into said first thread box;

feeding a fourth rail on the railcar into said second thread box;

operating said ~~drive~~ drives of the first and second thread boxes to transport the respective third and fourth rails therethrough while propelling said railcar away from the first and second rails along the track at a speed sufficient to maintain said third rail substantially end to end with said first rail and disconnected therefrom and said fourth rail substantially end to end with said second rail and disconnected therefrom, thereby unloading said third and fourth rails from the railcar onto the railway bed with the first and third rails disconnected and positioned on the railway bed substantially end to end and the second and fourth rails disconnected and positioned on the railway bed substantially end to end.

3. (New) A method as set forth in claim 1, including the steps of:

feeding said first rail into a second thread box located generally in line with said first mentioned thread box, said second thread box having a power generated drive for transporting the rails through the second thread box;

operating said drive of the second thread box to transport said first rail through said second thread box and onto the railway bed;

feeding said second rail into said second thread box; and

operating said drive of the second thread box to transport said second rail therethrough while said railcar is being propelled along the track.

3. (New) A method as set forth in claim 3, including the steps of:

feeding said first rail into a third thread box located generally in line with said second mentioned thread box, said third thread box having a power generated drive for transporting the rails through the third thread box;

operating said drive of the third thread box to transport said first rail through said third thread box and onto the railway bed;

feeding said second rail into said third thread box; and

operating said drive of the third thread box to transport said second rail therethrough while said railcar is being propelled along the track.